
HOUSE BILL 1727

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Curtis, Wallace, Skinner, Springer, Bailey, Walsh,
Tom and Santos

Read first time 02/03/2005. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to dropout reporting; and amending RCW 28A.175.010
2 and 28A.655.030.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.175.010 and 1991 c 235 s 4 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Each school district shall account for the educational progress of
7 each of its students. To achieve this, school districts shall be
8 required to report annually to the superintendent of public
9 instruction:

10 (1) For students enrolled in each of a school district's high
11 school programs:

12 (a) The number of students eligible for graduation in fewer than
13 four years;

14 (b) The number of students who graduate in four years;

15 (c) The number of students who remain in school for more than four
16 years but who eventually graduate and the number of students who remain
17 in school for more than four years but do not graduate;

18 (d) The number of students who transfer to other schools;

19 (e) The number of students who enter from other schools;

1 (f) The number of students in the ninth through twelfth grade who
2 drop out of school over a four-year period; and

3 (g) The number of students whose status is unknown.

4 (2) Dropout rates of students in each of the grades (~~((nine))~~) seven
5 through twelve.

6 (3) Dropout rates for student populations in each of the grades
7 (~~((nine))~~) seven through twelve by:

8 (a) Ethnicity;

9 (b) Gender;

10 (c) Socioeconomic status; and

11 (d) Disability status.

12 (4) The causes or reasons, or both, attributed to students for
13 having dropped out of school in grades (~~((nine))~~) seven through twelve.

14 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules
15 under chapter 34.05 RCW to assure uniformity in the information
16 districts are required to report under subsections (1) through (4) of
17 this section. In developing rules, the superintendent of public
18 instruction shall consult with school districts, including
19 administrative and counseling personnel, with regard to the methods
20 through which information is to be collected and reported.

21 (6) In reporting on the causes or reasons, or both, attributed to
22 students for having dropped out of school, school building officials
23 shall, to the extent reasonably practical, obtain such information
24 directly from students. In lieu of obtaining such information directly
25 from students, building principals and counselors shall identify the
26 causes or reasons, or both, based on their professional judgment.

27 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall report annually
28 to the legislature the information collected under subsections (1)
29 through (4) of this section.

30 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.030 and 2004 c 19 s 205 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 The powers and duties of the academic achievement and
33 accountability commission shall include, but are not limited to the
34 following:

35 (1) For purposes of statewide accountability, the commission shall:

36 (a) Adopt and revise performance improvement goals in reading,
37 writing, science, and mathematics by subject and grade level as the

1 commission deems appropriate to improve student learning, once
2 assessments in these subjects are required statewide. The goals shall
3 be consistent with student privacy protection provisions of RCW
4 28A.655.090(7) and shall not conflict with requirements contained in
5 Title I of the federal elementary and secondary education act of 1965,
6 as amended. The goals may be established for all students,
7 economically disadvantaged students, limited English proficient
8 students, students with disabilities, and students from
9 disproportionately academically underachieving racial and ethnic
10 backgrounds. The commission (~~may~~) shall establish school and school
11 district goals addressing high school graduation rates and dropout
12 reduction goals for students in grades seven through twelve. The
13 commission shall adopt the goals by rule. However, before each goal is
14 implemented, the commission shall present the goal to the education
15 committees of the house of representatives and the senate for the
16 committees' review and comment in a time frame that will permit the
17 legislature to take statutory action on the goal if such action is
18 deemed warranted by the legislature;

19 (b) Identify the scores students must achieve in order to meet the
20 standard on the Washington assessment of student learning and, for high
21 school students, to obtain a certificate of academic achievement. The
22 commission shall also determine student scores that identify levels of
23 student performance below and beyond the standard. The commission
24 shall consider the incorporation of the standard error of measurement
25 into the decision regarding the award of the certificates. The
26 commission shall set such performance standards and levels in
27 consultation with the superintendent of public instruction and after
28 consideration of any recommendations that may be developed by any
29 advisory committees that may be established for this purpose. The
30 initial performance standards and any changes recommended by the
31 commission in the performance standards for the tenth grade assessment
32 shall be presented to the education committees of the house of
33 representatives and the senate by November 30th of the school year in
34 which the changes will take place to permit the legislature to take
35 statutory action before the changes are implemented if such action is
36 deemed warranted by the legislature. The legislature shall be advised
37 of the initial performance standards and any changes made to the

1 elementary level performance standards and the middle school level
2 performance standards;

3 (c) Adopt objective, systematic criteria to identify successful
4 schools and school districts and recommend to the superintendent of
5 public instruction schools and districts to be recognized for two types
6 of accomplishments, student achievement and improvements in student
7 achievement. Recognition for improvements in student achievement shall
8 include consideration of one or more of the following accomplishments:

9 (i) An increase in the percent of students meeting standards. The
10 level of achievement required for recognition may be based on the
11 achievement goals established by the legislature and by the commission
12 under (a) of this subsection;

13 (ii) Positive progress on an improvement index that measures
14 improvement in all levels of the assessment; and

15 (iii) Improvements despite challenges such as high levels of
16 mobility, poverty, English as a second language learners, and large
17 numbers of students in special populations as measured by either the
18 percent of students meeting the standard, or the improvement index.

19 When determining the baseline year or years for recognizing
20 individual schools, the commission may use the assessment results from
21 the initial years the assessments were administered, if doing so with
22 individual schools would be appropriate;

23 (d) Adopt objective, systematic criteria to identify schools and
24 school districts in need of assistance and those in which significant
25 numbers of students persistently fail to meet state standards. In its
26 deliberations, the commission shall consider the use of all statewide
27 mandated criterion-referenced and norm-referenced standardized tests;

28 (e) Identify schools and school districts in which state
29 intervention measures will be needed and a range of appropriate
30 intervention strategies, beginning no earlier than June 30, 2001, and
31 after the legislature has authorized a set of intervention strategies.
32 Beginning no earlier than June 30, 2001, and after the legislature has
33 authorized a set of intervention strategies, at the request of the
34 commission, the superintendent shall intervene in the school or school
35 district and take corrective actions. This chapter does not provide
36 additional authority for the commission or the superintendent of public
37 instruction to intervene in a school or school district;

1 (f) Identify performance incentive systems that have improved or
2 have the potential to improve student achievement;

3 (g) Annually review the assessment reporting system to ensure
4 fairness, accuracy, timeliness, and equity of opportunity, especially
5 with regard to schools with special circumstances and unique
6 populations of students, and a recommendation to the superintendent of
7 public instruction of any improvements needed to the system;

8 (h) Annually report by December 1st to the legislature, the
9 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board
10 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the
11 commission. The report may include recommendations of actions to help
12 improve student achievement;

13 (i) By December 1, 2000, and by December 1st annually thereafter,
14 report to the education committees of the house of representatives and
15 the senate on the progress that has been made in achieving goals
16 adopted by the commission;

17 (j) Coordinate its activities with the state board of education and
18 the office of the superintendent of public instruction;

19 (k) Seek advice from the public and all interested educational
20 organizations in the conduct of its work; and

21 (1) Establish advisory committees, which may include persons who
22 are not members of the commission;

23 (2) Holding meetings and public hearings, which may include
24 regional meetings and hearings;

25 (3) Hiring necessary staff and determining the staff's duties and
26 compensation. However, the office of the superintendent of public
27 instruction shall provide staff support to the commission until the
28 commission has hired its own staff, and shall provide most of the
29 technical assistance and logistical support needed by the commission
30 thereafter. The office of the superintendent of public instruction
31 shall be the fiscal agent for the commission. The commission may
32 direct the office of the superintendent of public instruction to enter
33 into subcontracts, within the commission's resources, with school
34 districts, teachers, higher education faculty, state agencies, business
35 organizations, and other individuals and organizations to assist the
36 commission in its deliberations; and

1 (4) Receiving per diem and travel allowances as permitted under RCW
2 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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